

Researching Associated Historic Properties

The first steps in any field survey of cultural resources, including battlefields and other historic properties, are to define an historic context, circumscribe a geographic area of interest and develop research questions to help guide the survey process. With the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 study, the NPS study team has already identified the historic periods to focus on, the geographic area of interest, and specific research questions which will help to determine the level of threat to these special resources. Additionally, the study team has created a framework for the historic context of this study, through the creation of a series of historic themes related to the associated historic properties. We must rely on the individual surveyors however to fill in that context framework fully and provide the connection between the battle actions, associated historic properties, and the many other social, political and economic issues surrounding waging war during these two periods.

Goals of Archival Research

The background research conducted by field surveyors will create the historic contexts for the associated historic properties, justifying their significance and arguing for their preservation and conservation into the future, in their own right, possibly as separate entities from battlefields. The goal of this research then becomes to establish the connection between the associated properties and other actions or happenings which made them significant, in addition to confirming that the resources seen in the field are indeed the resources referred to in documents or other references. Additionally, archival research informs the fieldwork process, leading surveyors to look for or document specific features.

The end product of this archival research will be a short summary of the history of the property, focusing on the time period(s) of interest, similar to a National Register of Historic Places statement of significance. Any research surveyors provide will be used by the NPS study team and the Advisory Committee to confirm the significance of the site, as well as leading to the field assessment of integrity. A complete checklist of the research requirements, as part of the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 survey project, is provided at the end of the research section.

General Archival Research Procedures

For a typical reconnaissance-type survey, researchers begin by establishing the historic context and then work to find resources which may fit the various contexts identified. With the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 survey, the NPS study team will generally follow the field techniques involved with a reconnaissance survey, however researchers can focus more heavily on the resources already identified within our contexts as target features. In general, for a reconnaissance survey, archival research looks at larger trends in a single community. In our case, resources already identified and determined significant by the Advisory Group become our target resources. Researchers can then focus on collecting very specific information about individual properties or groups of properties, within the circumscribed date ranges, in order to support their significance and to help in identifying appropriate preservation alternatives.

Most historic preservationists are familiar with the general steps involved in proper archival research, although this study is somewhat unique in its approaches to the research aspects of the field survey.

1. Commonly, research on a particular property, as part of a larger study, will begin with gathering the information that already exists in order to get a full sense of what occurred at the property, who was involved, and when it took place.

For the most part, NPS study team staff used the National Register of Historic Places as a starting point. Examining the National Register nomination, National Historic Landmark nominations or other official documents may provide surveyors with an overview of the property. Other more detailed information may be available from the SHPOs themselves, such as survey forms, Review and Compliance reports, archaeological site reports, or historic structure reports. Together these documents will help surveyors understand the significance of the property in general, and its connection to either the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812, or possibly both wars.

The NPS study team recognizes that surveyors may have limited time to conduct the type of thorough research required to fully investigate associated historic properties. Using research already collected by others may be a significant help and we encourage surveyors to take advantage of the existing documentation. In these cases, surveyors should carefully evaluate the quality of the research, its age, and the references cited (see below). A checklist enclosed at the end of the research section of this manual will help researchers to determine if enough research already exists, or if new research should be conducted.

2. Once the existing documentation is collected, researchers need to assess the reliability of the information in order to determine if new research needs to be conducted.

Familiarity with the document types will help surveyors assess the reliability of the information presented to them. However, key issues may arise which will help determine if new research needs to be gathered. Old research, frequently revised interpretations, reliance on secondary sources or local knowledge, and contradicting stories may indicate to the surveyor that additional information could be useful in providing support for the theories and stories presented in the existing documentation. Establishing a good foundation for the historic context of the properties through good research will allow the NPS study team to develop better and more appropriate recommendations for these properties at the end of the survey. Additionally, good research will help surveyors in the field as they look for physical evidence of the story that the documents may tell.

3. After assessing the existing documentation, researchers can begin to identify gaps in the documentation, or questions that need to be answered.

If researchers examine the existing documentation and identify gaps during the time periods of interest for this study, or generate new questions associated with the role the property played in either war, new research should be conducted. The primary concern of this study is to establish the connection of the property to the event or happening which makes it

significant during either the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812. If current documentation does not adequately confirm the association, new research will help to prove the connection, or dispel any myths remaining about the resource. The first step in any new research should be to examine the primary source information available for the property.

4. Once problem areas in the documentation are targeted, researchers can begin the process of acquiring new information to fill in gaps and confirm secondary sources.

The process of archival research will start with primary documents usually located at state or county courthouses, libraries, archives and historical societies. Good research will also locate secondary sources which can provide additional information. For the purposes of the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 study, surveyors should complete a chain of title (with some exceptions for specific property types) at a minimum, to confirm the property existed at the time in question, and find information to support the association of the property to either war. The NPS study team recognizes that time and staff members may be in short supply, however the archival research portion of the survey process will be key in the subsequent preservation alternative recommendations provided to Congress. The research conducted will help the NPS study team to confirm the identity and nature of the connection of properties to the war, leading to more appropriate recommendations.

- Compile existing documentation together with new research to create a significance statement for the property.

Although the goal of archival research is to provide context and meaning to the property, for the purposes of the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 study, the NPS study team requests that surveyors compile the documentation into a statement of significance for use by the team in evaluating the property. The significance statement should focus on the specific time period appropriate to the property, and it contain a brief discussion of the property itself and the support for its inclusion in the survey, bolstered by the research conducted. Additionally, surveyors will need to submit a complete list of the sources used in the research portion of the survey, for each property.

Primary Source Research

Researching any historic property begins with the primary source data, the name of the property owner and a date. Primary sources are the original documents from the target time period that tell us more objectively about the people, dates and occurrences that took place. By examining these official written records we can investigate many aspects of a property, from a variety of perspectives. The main goals of this type of primary source research for the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 study include: establishing that the property in question is the historic resource by confirming construction dates, confirming associations with specific owners, in addition to affirming that particular actions took place at the properties in question.

Primary source documents useful in historic property research may include courthouse documents, land records, census information, insurance records, historic atlases and many other private records such as letters, diaries or ledgers. Used together, these sources can create an

image of the property and who lived there, with more authority and credence than simply compiling secondary sources in the majority cases.

For the most part, the first place to start with primary source research is with an individual property owner, most likely the current property owner name. In most courthouses, documents and official records are referenced by specific people and names, not by the historic properties themselves. Knowing the names of property owners, and the dates those owners were associated with the property then becomes critical information for the research process. Searching deed records to establish a “chain of title” creates a list of owners, along with information describing when they were associated with the property, and how they acquired the resource. From here, researchers can choose individuals to research more closely, establishing the connection from resource to owner, and to the historic theme or military action which made the property significant for this study.

The following is a brief list and discussion of the type of primary source documents which could be useful to surveyors as they research properties through mechanisms such as deeds. Bear in mind that each state and county may have different documents, or keep those documents in different locations. The list provided here is not comprehensive for the entire study region of the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 project. For the most part, these materials reside in county courthouses, however some states archive these documents in central state archive or library locations. Surveyors should check with the local courthouse, archive, library or historical society to confirm where these documents may be held, and what may be available to use.

- Deeds

Deed records, usually archived at the county courthouse, provide researchers with an official record of property ownership. A deed is recorded at the courthouse when a property changes hands and thus contains the names of the seller (grantor) and the buyer (grantee), as well as a formal description of the property, a date of sale, and in many cases the price of the property. Through these documents surveyors can then trace the history of property owners, establishing when they owned the property, and what the property contained, creating a “chain of title.” The chain of title created then forms the cornerstone for further documentary research, providing the surveyor with names and dates to work from.

To begin creating a chain of title, or title search, researchers will need to know the name of the current property owner. This information can be easily obtained at the courthouse by referring to the most recent tax parcel information which provides a tax parcel number, name, address and deed reference for the current owner. Researchers can then locate the deed referred to, or look up the owner name in one of several indexes to find the first deed in the chain of title.

Once researchers locate the first deed in the chain, tracing the property back becomes a relatively simple process. Each deed contains a reference to the previous deed, providing a deed book volume number, page number, and year the deed was recorded. If researchers ever lose the chain because of the lack of a previous deed reference, indexes of Grantees (sellers) and Grantors (buyers) will provide an alphabetical list of names with corresponding deed references and dates. Surveyors may wish to keep track of the chain of title and all the

deed references which can be generated through this process by using specialized forms (see example in the Appendix) to track owners, dates, property splits or other notes.

By following the chain of title back to the period of interest, surveyors can establish that the property did exist at that location during the time frame outlined. Additionally, surveyors can confirm who owned the property at that time, how they acquired it, and if it was involved in any type of litigation. Being able to document that a property was seized or sold at auction may help to document its role, or the owner's role, in either the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812.

In some cases, surveyors may find through the collection of already existing documentation that a chain of title already exists. Surveyors may use this documentation, rather than recreate the chain, provided that the information is current, and the confidence level in the chain is also high. Spot-checks of specific names, dates, or references within the already existing chains of title may help surveyors better assess the veracity of the documentation in these cases.

- Wills

Will records, kept on file usually at the county courthouse, can also help researchers establish a record of property ownership. Wills are recorded at the courthouse when a person dies and they contain important birth, death and marriage information, as well as specific reference to property information and descriptions in many cases. If a property remains within a specific family for long periods of time, no deed records will be recorded unless money is exchanged to sell the property. Many families pass their property to their heirs through wills. Used together with a chain of title, wills can provide additional information about other figures who might be important to the history of the property or its significance.

Similar to deeds, wills remain at the courthouse, indexed by the name of a person. Deeds may also reference wills specifically by will book volume number, page number and date, if the property being sold previously transferred hands via a will rather than a deed. Surveyors may wish to keep track of wills used to establish ownership with the deed references and chain of title, rather than as separate research tools.

By incorporating wills into the primary research of a historic property, surveyors may better establish the important dates related to a resource, as well as the people. Wills, less formal in their construction than deeds, may provide additional insight into the relationships between people, associations with other resources, or specific events which took place at the property. Additionally, wills may help researchers confirm the specific locations of the resources in question if a particular person owned more than one property.

- Probate Inventories

Probate inventories, archived at the county courthouse, are recorded when a person dies without a will and property must be transferred to a new owner, regardless of a family connection. Usually used by preservationists, inventories can provide very detailed information regarding the layout, function, use and contents of a building or property and its

associated features. Within the context of the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 study, this information will be less useful, although locating probate inventories will help researchers to better establish a chain of title, in addition to helping establish a time frame for particular events taking place in association with the property. Indexed by the name of a person, probate inventories can range from very brief descriptions of a property to full room-by-room delineation of every item in a building. Used in coordination with deeds or wills, the probate inventory can illuminate a chain of title, confirm the function or use of a particular property and provide information otherwise invisible to the researcher.

- Court Records

Court records, archived at the county courthouse, contain information pertaining to most litigation in the form of minor claims, property disputes, debt settlements, and other similar issues. Typically, these documents are used by historic preservationists for their building descriptions, often contained within property dispute documentation. For the purposes of the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 study, court records may help researchers understand the seizure and resale of properties, as well as help in the creation of a more complete chain of title. A break in the chain of title can often be explained by a property dispute settlement resulting in the seizure of a property. Court records such as property disputes, are often indexed by the names of litigants and the dates of court appearance, similar to other primary source documents mentioned. Used together with wills, deeds and probate records, surveyors can create a complete picture of the ownership and disposition of a property during the time periods required.

- Tax Assessments

Tax assessment records, archived at the county courthouse or state archives, enumerate the total value of property, buildings, outbuildings, and livestock among other items, depending on the state or county. For the most part, preservationists use tax records to confirm ownership, to document changes made to buildings over time through property value increases, and to provide additional information about the use of properties or the extent of an individual owner's holdings. In some cases, tax records will provide detailed descriptions of buildings or properties along with the valuation. Indexed by year and alphabetically by owner name, tax records can help to establish the presence of a property at a particular time and associated with a particular person, or even participating in a particular activity. Tax records can serve as a supplement to a complete chain of title, and also as a double check on the chain of title in this fashion.

In many cases, counties and states completed periodic tax assessments for specific purposes that collected more detailed information. One such tax assessment, referred to as the 1798 Direct Tax, may be of interest to surveyors exploring properties associated with the War of 1812. Although the 1798 Direct Tax does not survive in many states, it does exist with complete coverage in some states, such as Maryland and Pennsylvania. In addition to the data collected with standard tax assessments, the 1798 Direct Tax collected information such as building materials and measurements, number of windows, and conditions of buildings.

This information can help to confirm that the resources involved with the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 study are indeed the original structures, in their original locations.

- Census Records

Census records, archived at the county courthouse or state archives, list all households and persons within those households, along with age, race, gender, literacy and other vital information. Although the census did not begin until 1790, it may still be of use to surveyors researching War of 1812 properties. The census records may help to determine who occupied what properties, and more importantly the occupations of persons within a household. This information can again be used to support secondary sources which may mention the operation of particular businesses, industries, or other activities which may have direct bearing on the conduct of the War of 1812.

- Maps and Atlases

Historic maps, plat (tax) maps, and atlases, frequently archived with the state records or county courthouses, often indicate the locations of properties and their associated owners. Of course, depending on the audience and purpose of the map, scales and details will vary between maps, and they should be used cautiously. These documents can be extremely helpful in determining the proximity of an associated historic property to a battle action, or in making an argument for the relative significance of a property as a strategic objective of a specific military campaign. Clearly, historic maps will be of more use to surveyors as they explore battlefields themselves, troop movements and military campaigns, however researchers should not discount the utility of these sources to confirm the existence and general location of the associated historic properties. Review the "Historic Maps," "Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Maps," and "20th-Century Maps," sections of the battlefield survey manual for additional information on these important sources.

- Drawings

Historic architect's or engineer's drawings, archived with state records or county courthouses, often delineate the construction techniques and plans intended to complete a particular resource. These documents can be extremely helpful in interpreting or understanding fortifications and other military features, in addition to buildings or landscapes. Researchers should be cautioned that historic construction drawings, like modern construction drawings, often do not reflect what actually gets built, or what appears on a landscape. Researchers and surveyors should work together closely to confirm in the field what is found in construction drawings.

- Other Primary Sources

Researchers may encounter other primary sources at county courthouses, archives, libraries or historical societies which can provide additional insight into the contributions and significance of these resources. Items such as Orphan's Court records, building insurance contracts, letters, diaries or other correspondence may provide surveyors with information

outside of the official documentation. Locating these types of documents may be more difficult, and they may not exist in relation to the people or property involved in the survey project. For the purposes of the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 project, surveyors should focus on the main forms of primary source information, construct a chain of title, and then look toward these other types of documents to help support secondary source information.

Secondary Source Research

Clearly, the NPS study team would prefer primary source documentation of the significance or role that these associated historic properties played in the conduct of either the Revolutionary War or War of 1812, however surveyors should take advantage of secondary sources where appropriate to further support these resources. Secondary sources consist of documents written by individuals, after the fact, and usually contain compilations of other data and interpretations of actions or events. Because these sources contain an individual's interpretation they remain more subjective, but may be the result of very good original primary research, and should not be discounted by surveyors. Secondary sources may provide researchers with a good overall sense of what may have occurred at a property, and may lead researchers to explore additional primary sources to corroborate the theories set out.

Secondary source documents of interest in historic property research may include county or local histories, newspaper reports, battle histories and other accounts, as well as other books and references such as encyclopedias. These types of sources generally reside with local, county and state archives, libraries and historical societies. Surveyors should explore the use of these materials to create a framework or outline for the significance of a property, which can in turn be filled in with details garnered from primary sources. Used in conjunction with primary sources, secondary source research can be a powerful support for the significance of a property.

Similar to primary source reference materials however, secondary sources may be different in various states and counties across the region of this survey. Surveyors should check with the local, county and state libraries, archives or historical societies to determine what might be available and what could be useful before spending a frustrating day without finding helpful information.

Researching Other Property Types

The list of associated historic properties contains many types of resources, ranging from buildings to transportation routes to shipwrecks. The traditional means of researching properties described above will be successful for the majority of resources surveyors will encounter throughout this project, however several, more specialized, resource types may require slightly different research strategies, or the use of different sources. Regardless of property type however, researchers should always start with primary source documentation and follow the general research approach outlined above in the *General Archival Research Procedures* section.

- Historic Districts

Researchers will encounter two different types of historic districts in the course of the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 project. First, the NPS study team has identified particular historic districts from the National Register which may contain one or more resources related to one or both of the wars. Second, the advisory committee has created groups of resources which, taken together, have a higher significance for one or both of the wars. Surveyors can use the same strategies when researching each of these types of districts, but carrying out the actual field survey of these types of districts may differ.

Unlike the approach taken with individual properties, which started with the completion of a chain of title, researchers will need to first determine which resources within a district relate to a significant event or happening, and define these as contributing resources. Targeting specific contributing resources within a district will help researchers narrow the scope of the survey project and reduce the amount of specific research which must be accomplished within each district. Researchers should construct a chain of title for the resources identified as significant or contributing within each district, and continue to research target resources as needed, using the documents and general methods described above. In the case of the groupings created by the advisory committee, each resource should be considered contributing for the purpose of this project. Researchers should also keep in mind that other property types may exist within an historic district, perhaps requiring different methods or additional research work.

Rather than creating statements of significance for each resource inside the district however, researchers should create a broader context statement. This context statement should provide the general information collected on the individual resources, but focus on the relationship between the individual resources, and how the collection of these resources within a district enhances their significance with regard to either war. In order to fully address the historic context of an historic district, researchers may need to rely heavily on compilation sources or secondary sources. Researchers should use sufficient primary source documentation to support the secondary sources, however heavier use of secondary sources to achieve a broader picture is understood by the NPS study team as part of the context creation. Researchers may want to refer to the National Register bulletin, "How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form," for assistance in creating these broader context statements.

- Transitory Fortifications and Encampments

Many of the resources included on the list of associated historic properties include fortifications and encampment sites. Some fortifications take the form of engineered structures, or stone and brick homes converted into makeshift fortifications. These resources should be approached in the same manner as other architectural resources. More transitory fortifications, such as temporary earthworks, or encampment locations will not require the same approach however.

These more temporary resources, used on one or several occasions, but not converted into more substantial constructions with permanent occupation, are without tangible evidence in many instances and will be more difficult to research as well as survey. A chain of title will not be required for these resources, since these properties were never “owned” by the individuals or groups of interest for this study, but were commandeered in most cases due to their strategic location. Researchers should use other primary sources to prove that a temporary occupation took place in a particular location. These primary sources may include battle accounts or letters written from encampment locations, diaries, newspaper accounts, or other period sources.

Statements of significance should indicate the role that the fortification or encampment played within the context of one or both wars, as with all of the associated historic properties. The NPS study team recognizes that it will be difficult to prove that an encampment took place in a particular location without archaeological survey in some cases, but relying on primary source documents will help in this process. Researchers may want to refer to the National Register bulletin, “Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes,” and the Battlefield Survey Manual for a discussion of researching and documenting these types of resources.

- Transportation Routes and Resources

The list of associated historic properties contains several linear resources such as roads or trails, as well as ferries, fords or bridges, all related to the transportation of people and goods in relation to either the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812. These unique property types require a different approach and research strategy from buildings or districts. Unlike other resources, construction of a chain of title will not be appropriate for these long linear features, or other more nebulous features such as river fords. These types of resources are not “owned” by a single individual during any specific time period and can not be documented through deed records. Researchers will most likely need to rely more on other types of primary source documents, and specifically historic maps or atlases to determine various routes of transportation or approximate locations for fords and river crossings. Battle reports, letters and other period accounts may help researchers establish the locations of these resources, and help to determine their significance, however expect to encounter contradictions in accounts which will need to be rectified through additional research.

Long linear features, such as roads, trails or lines of march will cross county, state, and sometimes national boundaries as they traverse a landscape. Researchers should keep this in mind and may need to visit several county archives, or larger state archives to find all the information necessary to complete the research for a resource. Generally, surveyors will only need to be responsible for the documentation of a road or trail within their own state. Researchers may want to coordinate with other states however in the completion of the statements of significance or share information sources across boundaries as needed.

Other transportation resources such as ferries will generally be owned or operated by individuals, and a chain of title will be helpful in determining its existence during the time period in question, as well as a location and association with one or both of the wars. Here

researchers may need to rely more on tax records, court documents, and other permitting or business records which would help establish the operation of a ferry in a particular area.

Regardless of what transportation resource researchers encounter, or whether a chain of title is required, a statement of significance must be completed for each resource. Again, if these transportation features cross significant boundaries, surveyors may wish to coordinate with their counterparts in other states to prevent the duplication of effort in the creation of statements of significance. Only one statement of significance is required for each resource, even if it crosses state boundaries. Surveyors may want to refer to the National Register bulletin, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes," for information regarding the research and documentation of circulation networks such as these transportation features.

- Traditional Cultural Properties

The participation of Native Americans and minority groups is of particular interest in the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 project. Native Americans played a significant role in the conduct of both wars, along with African Americans. The list of associated historic properties contains resources significant to these groups, however they may not be considered "properties," as preservationists traditionally understand them. Specifically, significant meeting places, seats of government, or sacred sites for Native Americans may not be understood as discreet parcels or resources which can be researched using the means described above. In these cases, a chain of title is not required, and researchers may need to rely more heavily on secondary sources, such as oral histories and traditions familiar to members of the communities involved with these actions or events to fully understand their relative significance. Researchers should treat oral histories as any other information source, and notes, tapes or transcripts of these discussions should be submitted to the NPS study team as part of the submitted documentation.

Researchers should construct statements of significance for each of these unique resources, as with all the other associated historic properties. Additionally, participation of minorities and Native American groups should be highlighted within statements of significance related to other resources, if not specifically considered a traditional cultural property. Researchers may want to refer to the National Register bulletin, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties," for information regarding the research and documentation of these specific property types.

- Ships and Shipwrecks

Maritime resources played a significant role in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Unlike other property types discussed, these resources are generally mobile, and invisible to many of the primary source documentation described above. Without a specific "property," most primary source documents traditionally used by preservationists are not helpful. Other sources, such as ship inventories will help researchers understand if a ship existed at a specific time, and where it might have focused its operations. Other period documents, such as diaries, letters, maps and other official business documents may describe

where ships were going, what cargo they might carry, what military mission they might have undertaken, or what military action they might have been involved in.

Maritime resources do not require the construction of a chain of title, however other primary source documentation should be used to establish the existence of the resource during the time period, if possible. Each ship or shipwreck included in the survey process should have a statement of significance, indicating the role that the ship played in either war, similar to the other associated historic property resource types. Researchers may want to refer to the National Register bulletin, "Nominating Historic Vessels and Shipwrecks to the National Register of Historic Places," for additional information and potential primary sources in researching these unique resources.

Compiling the Archival Research

Conducting archival research can be a frustrating and time consuming portion of any survey process, however the information gleaned from the process remains invaluable for assessing integrity, evaluating significance, and determining possible actions. In this sense, the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 study is no different from any other survey. Once surveyors have spent the time to do the archival research on associated historic properties, this information needs to be passed along, in the same manner as the battlefield documentation, to the NPS study team, the Advisory Committee and others who will prepare the preservation alternatives recommendations.

As part of the archival research process, the NPS study team requests that surveyors prepare the documentation in several ways, prior to submitting it for inclusion in the study.

- First, researchers should compile a bibliography for each associated historic property of all sources, both primary and secondary, used to document the property itself, the people who occupied it, or the events which took place there. For historic districts, researchers should submit all sources used, whether related to individual resources within the district, or related to the district as a whole.
- Following this, surveyors should compile a list for each associated historic property, or district, of all the people or organizations they contacted for information regarding the site. Please be sure to include contact information, such as a mailing address, phone number or email address so that the NPS study team may contact these individuals for preservation alternative suggestions later on in the study.
- Because the process of compiling a list of sources and contacts is the same for both battlefields and associated historic properties, surveyors should fill out an, "ABPP Sources List," form for each associated historic property as well as each battlefield. In this way, all source materials, regardless of the resource they refer to, can be kept together and in a similar format. Please review the, "Research Bibliography and Sources List," information in the battlefield survey manual for additional information; and refer to the appendix for the Sources List form.

- Finally, the NPS study team requests that surveyors prepare a brief statement of significance on each associated historic property in a document similar to a National Register of Historic Places statement of significance, or a context statement in the case of historic districts. Researchers should submit a written narrative, based on the primary and secondary research, which focuses on the period of interest, yet explains the connection of the property to the Revolutionary War or War of 1812, or discusses the role a district played in either war.

This statement should make a brief case for the significance of the property, describing the documentary support for its inclusion in the survey process. Although a complete chain of title should be constructed for each property (with the exception of the specific property types described above), researchers may focus the statement to the specific date ranges of interest for this study. Surveyors need to prove that the resource existed at the time, and they need to provide evidence that an event took place there linking the property to one of the historic themes defined for the project. The statement need not be lengthy, but it should provide the facts surrounding the property and a summary of the history. Please refer to the National Register bulletin, "How to Complete the National Register Registration Form," for a complete discussion of statements of significance. These bulletins are available from the National Register staff themselves, as well as the NPS study team as part of the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 project.

- Unlike the battlefield portion of the Revolutionary War/War of 1812 project, the associated historic properties will not have "defining features" which surveyors identify through archival research. With associated historic properties, surveyors will learn through research about the various stages of evolution associated with a property, however for the purposes of this project, these changes should only be noted when discussing the integrity of the property and possible preservation threats. Surveyors will not need to develop a list of defining features for the associated historic properties.

Revolutionary War/War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study Associated Historic Property Archival Research Checklist

Locating Existing Documentation

Have you checked these sources?

- ☐ 1. National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks
- ☐ 2. SHPO/THPO archives (survey forms, Sec. 106 reports, archaeological site reports)
- ☐ 3. County/City archives (local histories, historic structures reports)
- ☐ 4. County/City libraries
- ☐ 5. State archives
- ☐ 6. State libraries
- ☐ 7. Local universities or colleges

Assessing the Documentation: Does the Documentation meet the burden of proof?

Can you prove the building/district/site/landscape existed during the target time period?

Surveyors should have one of the following in order to make the case that an associated historic property existed during either the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812 in order to be included in the survey project.

- ☐ 1. A complete chain of title starting with the current owner and returning to the target date.
- ☐ 2. A chain of title with breaks if additional primary source documentation is provided to fill the potential gaps, such as will references or court references.
- ☐ 3. Historic maps, atlases or other primary source information for landscape features, indicating their location in a manner which can be confirmed using current landmarks.
- ☐ 4. Other primary source information indicating both the location of the resource, and the description of the resource, in order to confirm both locational clues and identifiable physical features of the resources themselves.
- ☐ 5. Physical proof of the age of a structure or building acquired through detailed examination of the resource or archaeological investigation.

Can you prove the resource is connected to a significant event or happening related to the wars?

Surveyors should have one of the following in order to make the case that an associated historic property played a significant role in either the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812 in order to be included in the survey project.

- ☐ 1. Primary source documents describing the role the property played in an event related to either war.
- ☐ 2. At least two current, well researched, and well documented (with primary source references), secondary sources confirming the same event, at the same place.